



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Naoki SHIBATA et al.

Serial No.: 09/985,927

Group Art Unit: 2826

Filing Date: November 6, 2001

Examiner: Ahmed N. Sefer

For: GROUP III NITRIDE COMPOUND SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND METHOD
FOR PRODUCING THE SAME

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to further examination on the merits and calculation of the filing fee, please
amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add the following new claims:

0' -- 9. (New) A semiconductor device structure having a first portion and a plurality of
second portions, said structure comprising:

a substrate; and

a separating layer formed over said substrate and defining a plurality of openings
respectively formed in said plurality of second portions,

wherein at least one opening in said plurality of openings comprises a rounded shape.

10. (New) The structure according to claim 9, wherein said shape comprises one of a
square and a rectangle, said shape having a side with a length in a range from 100 to 1000 μ m.